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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: SENIOR FATAH OFFICIAL KILLED IN
NABLUS: JUNE 4-6 (1500 HRS LOCAL)

This is a joint message from Embassy Tel Aviv and Consulate
General Jerusalem

1. (SBU) Summary: In the West Bank, the family of an alleged Israeli collaborator reportedly killed a senior Fatah official and his brother in Nablus, sparking demonstrations at the Mugata,a in Ramallah. An IDF soldier and two foreign national protesters were injured near Salfit in clashes between the IDF and demonstrators over the construction of the Ariel separation fence. Israeli bulldozers began leveling Palestinian-owned lands in Bayt Surik in preparation for the construction of the separation barrier northwest of Jerusalem. In Nablus, 40 Palestinian gunmen attacked the offices of the governor and the local Ministry of Interior, demanding to be integrated into the PA security services. A group of seventy Israelis entered the Haram al-Sharif (Temple Mount) compound under police escort, sparking clashes with Palestinians. The situation calmed down after police removed the Israelis. In the Gaza Strip, IDF fire injured a Palestinian youth near Neve Dekalim, and one suspected militant near Khan Yunis. Near Rafah, nine armed Fatah militants blocked the road into the terminal to protest not being paid by the PA for three months. End summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: According to Palestinian reports, a senior Fatah official and his brother were murdered in Nablus on June 3. The killers were identified as four brothers, the children of an alleged Israeli collaborator killed during the first Intifada. Three of the brothers turned themselves in to Palestinian security forces, and are currently in the Jericho prison. The fourth brother surrendered to Israeli authorities. The killings provoked demonstrations at the Mugata,a in Ramallah on June 3-4 by family members of those killed, and Fatah militants who demanded the execution of the suspects. Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Ahmad Quraya, (Abu Alaa) met with the protesters and promised that the case would be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

-- Injuries: According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, an IDF soldier and two foreign-national protestors were lightly injured during clashes between the IDF and Palestinian, Israeli and foreign demonstrators protesting the construction of a security fence around Ariel settlement June 3. The IDF detained, but subsequently released, nine demonstrators.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian reports, two Palestinians were injured when the IDF entered the village of Dura, near Hebron, to search the house of a Palestinian man released on June 2 from an Israeli prison.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian media, one Palestinian man sustained moderate injuries when he was beaten by IDF soldiers as he tried to go through the barrier gate at Nazlat Isa, north of Tulkarm, June 5. According to Israeli sources, the man failed to obey IDF orders.

-- Arrests: Palestinian media sources reported that the IDF arrested one Palestinian for throwing a Molotov cocktail at a IDF jeep near Bir Zeit, north of Ramallah, June 3.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, the IDF arrested two Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) members near Yatta June 3.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, IDF soldiers arrested one PIJ member near Bethlehem June 3.

-- Arrests: Palestinian media reported four Palestinians arrested by the IDF at the village of al-Qar,a, north of Ramallah, June 4.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian reports, the IDF arrested three Fatah members in Nablus June 4.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, the IDF arrested three Fatah and two PIJ members in the villages of Kafr ,Ayn and Dayr Husayn, near Ramallah, June 5.

13. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS

-- According to Palestinian media, IDF troops entered the village of Biddya, near Qalqilya, on June 3, and confiscated a stockpile of explosives.

-- According to Palestinian reports, Israeli bulldozers started leveling Palestinian-owned lands in preparation for the construction of the separation barrier in Bayt Surik, northwest of Jerusalem. During a demonstration held by Palestinian, Israeli, and foreign protesters June 4, four people suffered from tear gas inhalation.

-- Palestinian press reported that settlers uprooted 200 olive trees at the village of Marda, near Nablus, June 4.

-- According to Palestinian reports, the IDF demolished one house and five barns at the village of Imr Daraj, near Yatta, June 5. According to the IDF, the structures lacked appropriate permits, and were located in a closed military area.

14. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- Palestinian media reported that 40 Palestinian gunmen attacked the offices of the governor of Nablus and the local Ministry of Interior on June 4. The gunmen demanded job guarantees, and asked to be incorporated into the Palestinian security services. After the incident, the spokesman for the Ministry of Interior said that they would consider the demands of the gunmen.

-- According to Palestinian and Israeli reports, a group of seventy Israelis, under Israeli police escort, entered the Haram al-Sharif (Temple Mount) compound on June 6 to commemorate Jerusalem Day. Israeli police reported that Palestinians threw rocks at the group. According to the Israeli media, the police escorted the group from the compound, with two of the group members lightly injured. Palestinian sources reported that no injuries were sustained during the demonstration.

Gaza Strip

15. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries/shootings: According to UNRWA, IDF fire injured a 17-year-old Palestinian male when he approached the Neve Dekalim settlement fence with a group of other Palestinian youth June 6.

-- Injuries/shootings: According to the IDF, IDF fire injured one suspected Palestinian militant near the IDF outpost north of Khan Yunis June 5.

-- Mortars: According to the IDF, Palestinian militants fired two mortar shells June 4-6, one near Nitzanim settlement and one near Erez crossing.

-- Rioting: According to the IDF, Palestinian youths threw stones at IDF soldiers and Israeli settlers during a riot that took place near the IDF outpost south of Katif settlement June 4.

-- Shootings: According to the IDF, Palestinian militants engaged in three instances of shooting at IDF soldiers June 5-6, two west of Khan Yunis and one south of Rafah.

16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS

-- Route Four (Salah Ed-Din Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 4-6, but closed at Netzarim junction.

-- The Erez Crossing was open to internationals, diplomats, and Palestinian laborers June 4-6.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open June 4-6.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for laborers, but open for aggregates used in construction June 4-6.

-- Karni Terminal was open for the import and export of materials June 4-6.

-- Rafah Terminal was open with age restrictions June 4-6
(see Political Developments below.)
-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed, and Toufa checkpoint
was open with restrictions on males age 16-30, June 4-6.

17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- According to UNRWA, eight armed Fatah militants blocked
the route to Rafah terminal June 4 and 5 in order to protest
not being paid by the PA for three months. They reportedly
stopped several high-level PA officials at the entrance to
the terminal and prevented them from exiting the Gaza Strip
by confiscating their passports.

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